

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 19-21 are rejected. Claims 3-11, 14, 17, and 18 are objected to.

Priority

Applicant claims foreign priority, the certified copy of the priority documents submitted concurrently with the filing of this application. It is respectfully requested the priority and receipt of the documents be acknowledged.

Claims

Claims 3, 4, 7-9, 14, 17 and 18 have been amended to independent form. Claim 2 has been amended to now depend to claim 3. It is respectfully submitted that claims 2-11, 14, 17 and 18 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Saigo (U.S. 6,587,880) in view of Luzeski et al. (U.S. 6,404,762) and further in view of Bauer et al. (U.S. 6,690,788).

Claim 12 has been amended to include the allowable features of claim 3. Claim 13 depends from claim 12. It is respectfully submitted the rejection should be withdrawn and claims 12 and 13 placed in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 2, 15, 16 and 19-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Saigo et al. (U.S. 6,587,880) (Saigo) in view of Luzeski et al. (U.S. 6,404,762).

As mentioned above claim 2 now depends from allowable claim 3.

Claims 15, 20, 22, 24 and 25 has been amended to include the allowable features of claim 3. It is respectfully submitted these claims and their dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim 19 has been amended to include the feature of an interface device converting the issued session identification information and notifying the converted session identification information to a user. The feature is supported by the specification, for example, page 34, line 8 and page 35, line 22. No new matter is entered.

Claims 1 and 19 are different from the prior art for at least the following reasons:

The Saigo describes a session management system. The Office Action suggests the reference describes the plurality of communication devices but fails to explicitly describe the interface devices corresponding to a plurality of media and performing session management on a session of two or more media. The Office Action relies on the Luzeski et al. reference for that feature.

Saigo is different from applicant's claimed invention because it assumes the capability of the Internet and is concerned with the method for managing sessions held among a plurality of WEB servers using only a single medium. Saigo is different with respect to its objective, configuration, and resulting benefits because it only teaches a single medium.

Luzeski et al. on teaches transmitting via the Internet. Luzeski et al. describes exchanging voice messages, fax messages, e-mail messages and so on, but they all are assumed to be transmitted via the Internet. In particular Luzeski et al. describes a method for handling data sets that are generated using mutually different encoding methods.

In contrast applicant's claimed invention includes a method and apparatus for managing sessions held on a plurality of different media. Claim 1 provides: a plurality of interface devices

respectively corresponding to the plurality of media, respectively receiving session information from the plurality of communications devices, and generating unified session information corresponding to the received session information. This is not taught by the cited references.

Bauer et al. discloses an intelligent work distribution architecture, which accommodates PCs, telephone sets and fax-machine in Fig. 1.

The architecture of Bauer provides for different interfaces but does not describe anything comparable to applicant's claimed invention with regards to the interface devices for receiving respectively the sets of session information associated respectively with a plurality of communication media, to generate unified session information.

Applicant's claimed invention is concerned with generating and using the unified session information so as to be able to conduct a series of mutually related information searches in a combined manner, while these information searches employ mutually different type communication media.

Please charge the amount of \$688.00 for eight extra independent claims to Deposit Account 50-1290.

For at least the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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